

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the Application.

1-39. (Canceled).

40. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for describing user preferences, the method comprising:

providing a hierarchical data structure defining a hierarchy of preference objects for describing user preferences related to multimedia content~~[[:]], the hierarchical data structure including two or more parent preference objects, wherein each of the two or more parent associating a first preference objects is a container for in the hierarchy with a corresponding plurality of child preference objects in the hierarchical data structure, each child preference object representing at least one content~~ description element~~[[s]]~~ describing multimedia content;

assigning a single respective preference value to ~~the first~~ each of the two or more parent preference objects to characterize user preference for the combination of the plurality of content description elements ~~associated with the first~~ represented by the corresponding plurality of child preference objects; and

generating a user profile that ~~specifies~~ includes the hierarchical data structure hierarchy of preference objects, the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference object in the hierarchy, and specifies the single respective preference value for each of the two or more parent preference objects characterizing user preference for the combination of the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference objects in the hierarchy.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein one of the two or more parent preference objects has a first child preference object in the corresponding plurality of child preference objects, the first child preference object representing a first

content description element, the method further comprising:

assigning a first preference value to the ~~associating a second~~ first child preference object in the hierarchy with a to characterize user preference for the first content description element alone in the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference object.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 41, ~~further comprising: assigning a second~~ wherein generating the user profile includes specifying the first preference value to the second for the first child preference object ~~to characterize user preference for the first description element alone.~~

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein generating the user profile includes designating the ~~hierarchy of preference objects~~ hierarchical data structure to be used in searching or filtering multimedia content.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein ~~associating the first preference object in the hierarchy with a plurality of description elements includes associating the first preference object with one or more~~ of the content description elements ~~identifying~~ identify a genre, a director or an actor ~~of the multimedia content.~~

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein assigning a single respective preference value to each of the two or more parent ~~the first~~ preference objects includes assigning the ~~single~~ respective preference value based on a user's access pattern to multimedia content.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein assigning a single respective preference value to ~~the first~~ each of the two or more parent preference objects includes assigning the ~~single~~ respective preference value based on user input.

47. (Currently Amended) A software product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, for describing user preferences, the software product comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

~~defining a hierarchy of preference objects providing a hierarchical data structure for describing user preferences related to multimedia content[[]], the hierarchical data structure including two or more parent preference objects, wherein each of the two or more parent~~
~~associating a first preference objects is a container for in the hierarchy with a corresponding plurality of child preference objects in the hierarchical data structure, each child preference object representing at least one content~~ description element[[s]] describing multimedia content;

~~assigning a single respective preference value to the first each of the two or more parent preference objects to characterize user preference for the combination of the content description elements associated with the first represented by the corresponding plurality of child preference objects; and~~

~~generating a user profile that specifies includes the hierarchical data structure the hierarchy of preference objects, the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference object in the hierarchy, and specifies the single respective preference value for each of the two or more parent preference objects characterizing user preference for the combination of the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference object in the hierarchy.~~

48. (Currently Amended) The software product of claim 47, wherein one of the two or more parent preference objects has a first child preference object in the corresponding plurality of child preference objects, the first child preference object representing a first content description element, the software product further comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

~~associating a second~~ assigning a first preference value to the first child preference object in the hierarchy with a to characterize user preference for the first content description element alone in the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference

object.

49. (Currently Amended) The software product of claim 48, ~~further comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising: assigning a second wherein generating the user profile includes specifying the first preference value to the second for the first child preference object to characterize user preference for the first description element alone.~~

50. (Currently Amended) The software product of claim 47, wherein generating the user profile includes designating the ~~hierarchy of preference objects~~ hierarchical data structure to be used in searching or filtering multimedia content.

51. (Currently Amended) The software product of claim 47, wherein ~~associating the first preference object in the hierarchy with a plurality of description elements includes associating the first preference object with one or more of the content~~ description elements identifying identify a genre, a director or an actor ~~of the multimedia content.~~

52. (Currently Amended) The software product of claim 47, wherein assigning a ~~single~~ respective preference value to each of the two or more parent ~~the first preference objects~~ includes assigning the ~~single~~ respective preference value based on a user's access pattern to multimedia content.

53. (Currently Amended) The software product of claim 47, wherein assigning a ~~single~~ respective preference value to each of the two or more parent ~~the first preference objects~~ includes assigning the ~~single~~ respective preference value based on user input.